Court Puts Nix On CPI Vote Fix

by Andrew J. Esposito
Modern Times Staff

Catherine Quinn has won her lawsuit to be a delegate from Fair Haven to the Community Progress Inc.(CPI) board of directors. The superior court ruling, handed down on December 17 by Judge John J. McGrath, upheld Ms. Quinn's 179 to 128 first election victory.

Quinn brought the lawsuit ahainst CPI after the anti-poverty agency declared the election invalid and ordered a second election to be held. The second election was won by Michael Poppagoda 295 to 251. However, claiming widespread irregularities, Quinn took legal action to have her first election victory upheld.

In his decision, Judge McGrath stated he found "no evidence of substantial irregularities in the first election." However, he did find there were irregularities in the second election sufficient by themselves to render that election invalid.

First Election Not Questioned

During the trial, Carlene Williams, executive director of the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation(FHNC), testified that before the ballots were counted, there was a discussion of problems which had occured during the first election. Those present concluded the first election was "legal" and the votes should be counted.

Taking part in that discussion were: Carlene Williams; Joseph Carbone, Democratic chairman of the 13th ward; Frank Nasti, president of the Project Area Committee; and Richard Nuzzo, president of the FHNC. Quinn won. However, CPI declared the election invalid and ordered a second election to be held. This time Quinn lost by 44 votes.

Irregularities Cited

In his decision. Judge McGrath cited the "substantial testimony of irregularities in this second election." In one instance, a young spanish speaking woman stopped Hispanic speaking people on the street in front of a polling place. She helped them fill out the ballot and was overheard urging them to vote for Poppagoda. This was the polling place which cost Quinn the election.

Another irregularity was the conduct of CPI official Harold Petersen. Witnesses testified that he appeared to have been drinking and fell asleep during the vote counting. It was Petersen who placed the official stamp of approval on the second election. Clearly, he may not have been in condition to approve anything, let alone an election.

These two irregularities figured heavily in Judge McGrath's ruling.

Court Findings

"While election to the Board of Directors should probably not be governed by the strict standards of a public election, the practices documented in this case are such as to violate the most minimal standards of justice and fair play."

Judge McGrath went on to write,"The voters of Fair Haven do have an interest in insuring that certain standards are established and maintained."

Therefore, he ordered CPI not to seat Michael Poppagoda on its Board of Directors. The judge declared: 1)the first election, won by Quinn, was valid and binding; 2) the action of CPI in voiding the first election was invalid; 3) the second election was invalid; and 4) that Quinn is to be the representative from Fair Haven to the CPI board.

What Victory Means

Quinn, who was represented by attorney Michael Avery, won more than just a court victory for herself. She won a victory for the citizens of Fair Haven. A long time resident of New Haven's east side, Quinn will represent all the area's people;not just its land holders.

Everyone knows the CPI board is controlled by the Guida Administration. Thus, realistically, there is little one person can do except to cast protest votes. However, the court victory should serve notice on the landholder-political machine axis that they will not go unchallenged.

For too long only "lip service" has been given to the concept of community control. Those who claim to be "community people" too often are under the control of the political and economic establishemnt. With Quinn's victory, there is at least one true community person on the CPI board.

Nick Heyer

Mrs. Quinn

MODERN TIMES 20¢

"What you do is news!" Call 562-2510

New Haven

Vol. V, No. 14 January 1-15

N.H. Teacher Talks Begin As School Funds Are Cut

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

On December 6, the New Haven Federation of Teachers (NHFT) began negotiations for a new contract with the New Haven Board of Education. The current three-year contract for teachers in the city expires on June 30, 1975. No offers were presented by either the Board or the NHFT.

Negotiations for the last contract took over 15 months and culminated in a six-day strike (at that time the teachers had been working without a contract for seven months). The position of the New Haven Board of Education had been "more work for less pay."

After "court supervised" negotiations, the Board of Education agreed to a three percent wage increase the second year, four and one-half percent the third year (74-75)--but zero percent the first year (72-73). This gave a total of seven and one-half percent for a three-year contract ending in June, 1975. The NHFT also secured a "no-layoff" clause for teachers employed as of March, 1973.

Buying Power of Teachers Down

The cost of living from the beginning of the current contract (September, 1972) to the beginning of this school year (September, 1974) increased by *20.3 percent*. In gross terms, this means that a person who started teaching this year would have had to be earning $9624 a year to have had the same purchasing power as a beginning teacher *had in September, 1972. The starting salary for that teacher this year is $8850.*

The current city administration has also been pushing the education of New Haven's children more and more into the background. Three years ago, education was just over 50 percent of the city budget. This year, education is only 38 percent of New Haven city expenses. During a period in which the costs have gone up by over 20 percent, the Guida administration has held education expenses at a fixed amount.

Less for Our Children

This means that each year more teaching positions are eliminated and less teaching supplies and equipment are available. Currently, the New Haven Board of Education has hired substitute teachers at $20 a day to perform full-time teaching duties.

The Board claims they are within their rights because the "substitute" is not filling a regular teaching slot. For example, a teacher might have resigned last June and the Board of Education eliminated the position in the budget. Technically the job should be filled by a qualified teacher at the contracted salary but since the budget is cut--they fill it at $20 a day.

Right now, the schools cannot even spend what has been allotted in an already meager budget. All monies for equipment and books are currently frozen.

Outlook for Negotiations

The New Haven Federation of Teachers would like to complete negotiations

see TEACHER PACT, page 8

inside

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO MODERN TIMES

In this issue of MODERN TIMES, we are proud to present a "Special Supplement" to the people of New Haven regarding the efforts of the Fair Haven Short Circuited Consumers,and their quest for public ownership of the United Illuminating Company. We encourage you to read it, absorb the facts and make their quest one of your own. It is a step to help us all, the people of New Haven.

New Haven `75 - Facelifting

Nick Heyer

The latest addition to the Beaver Hill Area, the new firehouse on Goffe St., will provide increased fire protection. For other additions to the New Haven skyline, see the New Haven '75 photo stories inside.

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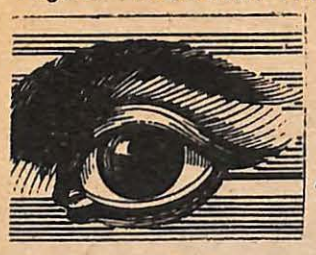


eye on the board

Aldermen Get Half a Cheer fcr Year

by Andrew J. Esposito
Modern Times Staff

It is traditional as the year draws to a close to examine, for a final time, its highlights. This is something not usuallv done when the subject is New Haven's Board of Aldermen, inasmuch as its highlights are, for the most part, nonexistent. However, 1974 was different. For the aldermen accomplished three things worth noting.

They passed a strong anti-lead paint ordinance, undertook a study to decide whether or not to purchase the New Haven Water Company(NHWC), and began an investigation into the possibility of acquiring the United Illuminating Co. (UI). Of these items, only the first has been accomplished, The study of the Water Co. is underway, and the UI hearings will start in the first two months of 1975.

Lead Paint Outlawed

After much delay and under pressure from Citizens Against Lead(CAL), the board unanimously passed an ordinance designed to protect children from the hazards of lead paint poisoning. The measure was sponsored by Frank Logue (D-18) and James Perillo(D-7). It forbids the use of lead based paint on areas of the home used for human occupancy.

Also, a notice of any violation of the lead paint law will be recorded on the city's land records. Thus, a prospective home buyer would be protected from unknowingly purchasing a dwelling which is in violation of the law. The ordinance also contains a provision requiring an owner-occupant to eliminate lead paint even if he or she pleads insufficient funds.

The passage of the measure capped many months of sustained effort by two local groups. Constant pressure for CAL and the Connecticut Citizens Research Group forced the board to side with the city's children,rejecting the attempts of the real estate industry to water down the measure.

Water Company Study

After passing the lead paint ordinance in June, the board entered a quiet period which lasted until September. At its September meeting, the board approved an 18-month feasibility study of New Haven's Water Co. and the possibility of New Haven purchasing it.

Under terms of the 1902 contract between the city and the NHWC, the municipality has the option, every 25 years, of purchasing the company. And 1977 is the next year in which the city must indicate its choice of whether or not to buy the utility. To this end, Logue has sponsored a bill to study city take-over of the NHWC.

If the city did obtain the NHWC it would acquire 16,000 acres of land to use as it saw fit. This additional public land could be used for: athletic fields, picnic areas, parks and open spaces to enrich city life.

As Logue has pointed out, public ownership of the local water supply is not a new or indeed very radical idea. It is the rule, not the exception, in the western part of the country. Clearly, municipalization of the NHWC would be desirable. The land would be useful to the citizens of New Haven, the rates would be lower, and public owner ship has been around for a long time.

UI Takeover Investigated

On October 7 the Board of Aldermen took a step that could have a greater impact on the future of New Haven than the purchase of the NHWC. David Warren(D-2) offered a resolution calling for a feasibility study on the municipalization of UI. The resolution was referred to the Municipal Services Committee for study where it stands an excellent chance for passage.

All the members of the committee have co-sponsored the resolution. They will hold a public meeting on municipalization during the last part of January or the first part of February. The committee will then make a recommendation, either favorable or unfavorable, to the full board. The board will then vote on the resolution. If it passes a panel to investigate municipalization of UI will be named.

The key element in the whole process is the naming of the feasibility panel. A solid feasibility study must be made. Therefore, New Haven needs to hire people skilled in both electric utilities and municipal ownership.

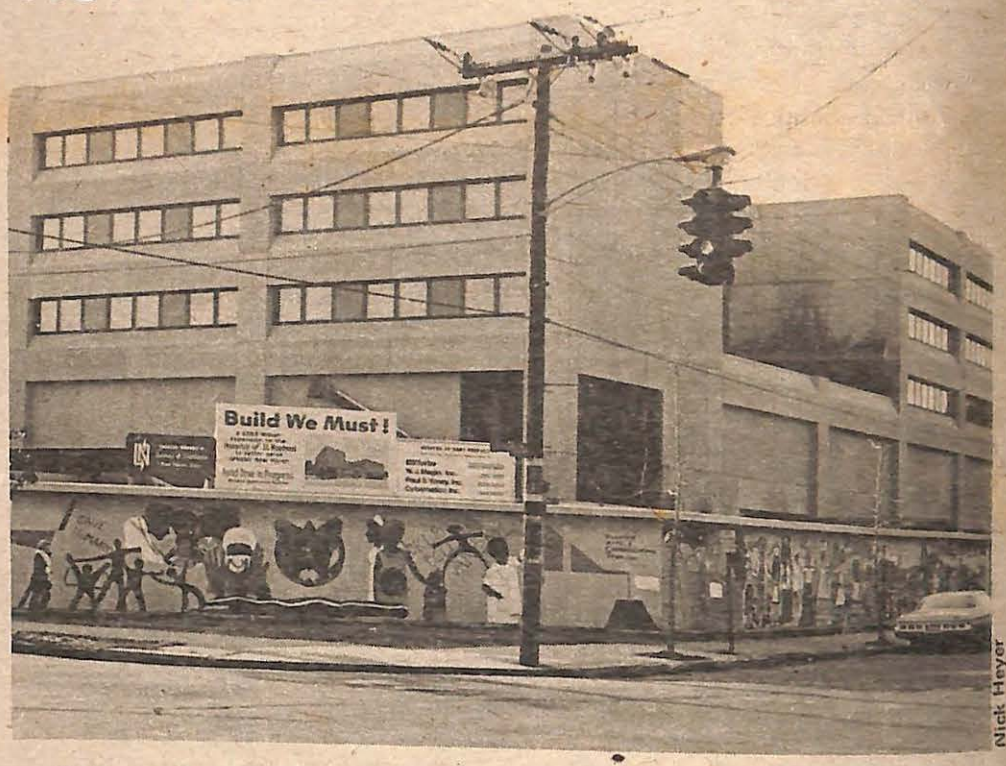
To insure that a solid study is undertaken, all people who wish to see the city acquire UI should attend the public meeting when it is held in early 1975.

New Haven `75-Yale U.

Fethi Meghelli

Yale's '75 contribution to New Haven is the multimillion dollar Melon British Art Gallery. Thanks Yale, for taking yet more land off the tax rolls!

New Haven `75/ St. Raphael



Nick Heyer

St. Raphael's new wing on Chapel St. will provide new beds for New Haven's sick. A good National Health Bill might help us afford them.

Ct. Job Safety May Slip

by New Haven Occupational Safety and Health Group

The time is drawing near when the Connecticut Department of Labor will take over occupational health and safety enforcement from the federal government. According to the 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act, any state can do this if it can "prove" that its enforcement process is "as good as or better than" the federal enforcement mechanism.

Connecticut submitted its plan back in early 1973. The U.S. Dept. of Labor tentatively approved that plan on Dec. 28,1973 despite repeated attempts by Connecticut's union officials and the New Haven Occupational Health and Safety Projest to block it. Approval was conditional on Connecticut's record for enforcement over the next three years(1974-1976.) The first year-1974-has been devoted to getting the state enforcemen mechanism "operational"-bringing the health inspectors from the state Health Dept. over to the State Dept. of Labor; training more compliance officers; completing all of the preliminary administrative shuffling necessary for an efficient operation.

The Following Years

During the next two years, the State Dept. of Labor will run the show. The federal forces will limit their work to completing old business and monitoring state enforcement. The exact date of the state's takeover of all complaints has not yet been determined.

What can we expect from state rather than federal enforcement? If past experience is any indicator-not much. Most of the compliance officers are not r trained in occupational health. State inspectors are more sensitive to political pressures than federal inspectors. Those coming over from the State Health Dept.,following a past policy of voluntary compliance, have never issued citations and have built up amiable relations with management, but not with labor. labor. It would be a miracle if attitudes changed for the better in the new occupational health section of the Dept. of Labor.

Hopeful Note May Vanish

There are two hopeful notes for 1975. First, the state may have to look tough in its enforcement. Federal Area Director Harold Smith is still around to observe state action. Second, Ella Grasso is now governor, and without knowing her stance on occupational safety and health, we can expect her to be somewhat more enlightened than her predecessor. On the other hand, as the economic picture grows bleaker, as unempolyment figures rise and more businesses fold, state politicians will grow increasingly reluctant to make waves with management, especially the big companies. More and more, the responsibility for setting health and safety issues falls on local unions and their health and safety committees and strong contracts bargained out the "hard way" by unions.

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MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editors.

MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions from the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get this kind of news from profit-making commercial papers. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working men and women are told by them instead of their bosses. There is no place else where the problems of employment and education, and housing and health care are told by the people who have to live with them.

This is the richest country in the world. Yet most of the wealth is used only by a few. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. There would be no need to strike for paltry raises, waste our resources and labor on missiles and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need, not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the vested interests that run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care, and decent jobs.

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MODERN TIMES

New Haven, Ct.

Let's Make the Switch to Public Power

A free press is one of the cornerstones of our freedom in this country. When we think of this freedom, we think of government control of the press and how this would capture our minds and restrict our judgements to only what was good for those in power. But in two cities of Connecticut, our press is dominated by the will and interests of people like John Fassett, president of the United Illuminating Company and board member of the NEW HAVEN REGISTER and other companies which furnish large sums of advertising money.

Electric power has become a necessary part of life, we have built our lives around homes and industries that depend on it. We, members of various consumer interests in this area, feel there are many things that should be done to combat the ever rising cost of this necessity not the least of these the feasibility of public ownership. We regret that most of us know only what the NEW HAVEN REGISTER cares to tell us and cannot imagine them taking a strong position on community issues, labor issues and now consumer issues.

If you will take note of the collage of editorials and articles throughout the past few months, clipped from the REGISTER(which supports the UI and the Public Utilities Commission), you will understand the power of this "utility controlled press", and join with us in thanking the publishers of MODERN TIMES for allowing us to tell our story and having it published in a four page supplement rather than on the obituary page or opposite the comics. We feel a true appreciation of this supplement could be best rewarded by a subscription to this paper, which will continue to tell the "consumer" story.

Fair Haven Short Circuited Consumers

EDITORIALS

Electric Firms, PUC, Under Fire

The state's electric utility companies are taking the brunt of the public's wrath and frustration over inflati... shortages. The reas... easy to fathom. And there is another basic Grasso handicap. The busi... e giv... equally climate in Connecticut today requires a conscientious ... home heati... nurturing of industrial confidence and some knowledge- ... tion. In fact; ... able bolstering of the unique labor-industry partnership of ... motorists hav... which so much of Connecticut's long term prosperity ha... 50 per cent inc... been built. In choosing, as she did, to participate direct... ... legal action against Connecticut's electric utilities ele... ... maneuvering holds no real solutions ... companies — Rep. Grasso ... standing and ...

These deve...

Fuel Charge A Ready Target

For a public fighting off the disasters of an economic situation whose causes and interactions it cannot fully comprehend, the fuel adjustment charge on its electric bills becomes a ready culprit, a ... on which it ... Electric company officials, under a barrage of criticism for the fuel adjustment rates, have all along ev... hope that the ...

forth by no more authoritative a voice than the state's consumer watchdog on utility companies, David Silverstone, who serves as counsel for the consumers at Public Utility Commission proceedings.

Removing the fuel charge would have "zero economic impact," Silverstone has told Register Reporter Carol...

Short-Circuited Consumers Want Fruits of U.I. Juice

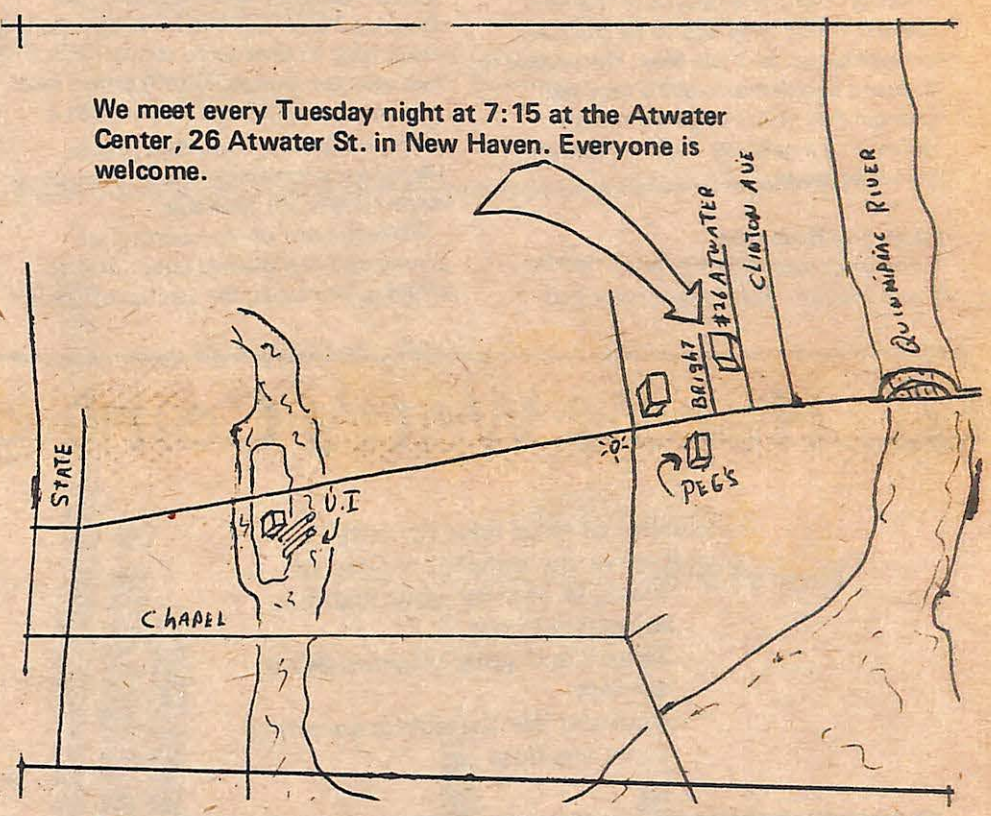
by Madeline Slater
Chairperson of the Fair Haven Short Circuited-Consumers

One early summer evening, a public meeting was held at the Fair Haven Middle School about the ridiculously high cost of electricity. Out of that meeting came the Fair Haven Short Circuited Consumers (FHSCC). We are a group of concerned citizens who have done extensive research in the field of municipalization of the United Illuminating Company. We have set up tables at stores and sold bumper stickers and T-shirts. We have over 3,000 signatures on petitions, over 45 signatures of small businessmen in Fair Haven alone, and have attended numerous meetings of the Public Utilities Commission.

Our group consists of about 30 people, but we need many more of you to help us continue towards a goal that will benefit all of us.

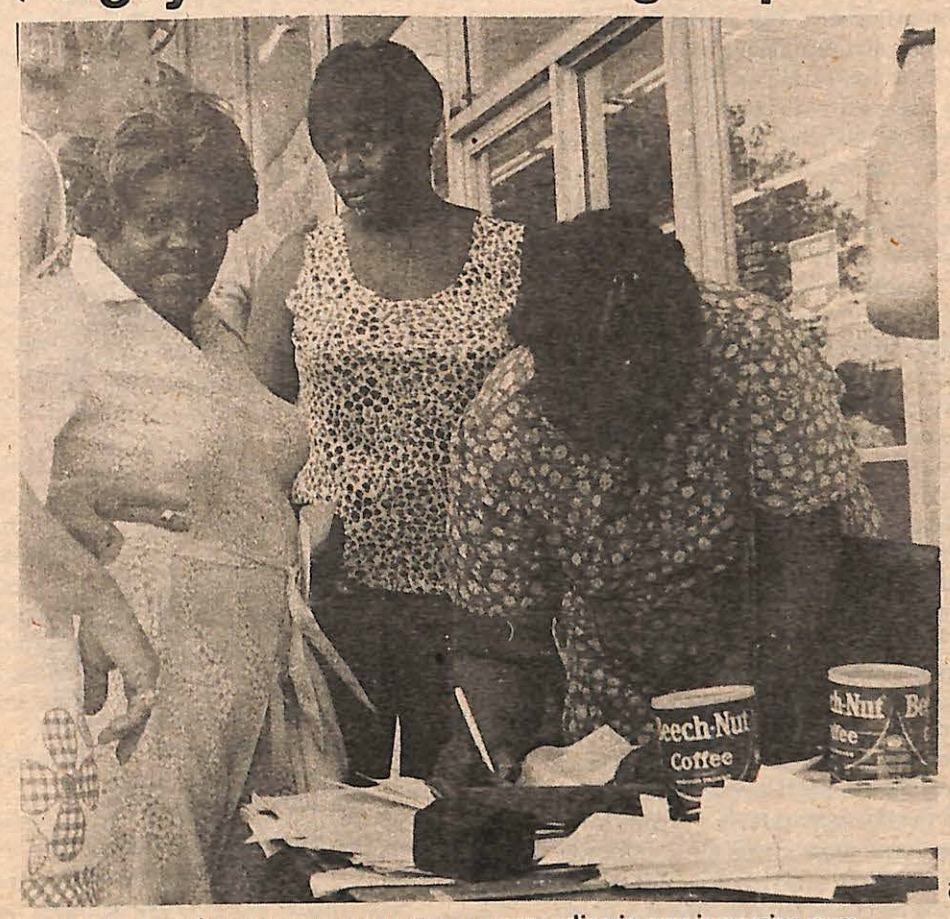
You can help us by joining our organization. The membership fee is $1.00. Our meetings are held every Tuesday evening from 7 to 9 pm. at the Atwater Senior Citizens Center, 28 Atwater St., New Haven. You can also help by calling your mayor, alderman, the UI and anyone else that will wake up this city.

Write letters to your governor congressman and the editor of your local newspapers. Let them know that you **will not** sit by any longer and be robbed by them. Tell them you are tired of all their charades and you are going to do something about it.



It's Fair Haven vs. U.I.

Angry Consumers Sign Up



Clarence

As prices continue to soar, consumers are responding in ever increasing numbers to the call for a public takeover of UI. Here three shoppers stop to sign the FHSCC petition before shopping at Peg's on Grand Ave.

Perhaps Fair Haven people were some of the first area citizens to recognize Reddy Kilowatt for the devious little "bulbhead" that he is. Maybe because we live in the area that is showered with black ash particles and choked with nitrogen and sulfur oxides pumped into the air with careless abandon, that we were the first to recognize United Illuminating as a force in our lives that we must struggle to subdue.

Maybe it was because in 1969, we learned of plans by the UI and Connecticut Light and Power Co. to construct huge towers, their height reaching 185 feet or the heigh of an 18-story building along the border of Fair Haven and reaching across the harbor into the Annex and East Haven, that we in Fair Haven began a long and arduous fight against this monopolistic utility.

We began sometime during these confrontations to realize that the United Illuminating controls the public, by their dependence on electricity, rather than being controlled by the public through the State Public Utilities Commission (PUC). We now are all aware of the economic power that utilities like United Illuminating and So. Conn. Gas Co. have over our lives, and how they are able to grind average consumers under their heels with their ever-increasing charges.

Requested Fuel Adjustment in 1970

I wonder how many people in New Haven realize that on October 29, 1970, a so-called "public hearing" was held by the PUC in Hartford, asking permission to include a fuel adjustment charge to all consumers of electricity in the State of Connecticut. Not many people knew or understood the beginnings of what was to be a major confrontation as the charges that were then allowed to be added reached the proportions that we are now experiencing.

We in Fair Haven did send a representative to that meeting in 1970 and we petitioned the PUC to hold meetings in New Haven, a right allowed under State Statute 16-26. We were denied even this small request. We subsequently took the PUC to court, and lost the case due to some small technicality. The PUC, in addition to the State of Connecticut's attorney that defended them, was aided by the United Illuminating's platoon of lawyers headed by none other than John Fassett, who has risen to the pinnacle of success as President of UI, a small reward compared to the revenue brought in by the "adjustment clause."

Hopefully, as you read this history of Fair Haven's battle with the UI Co., and as you look at your own bill and fret about paying it, you will more clearly understand our push for an electric company that is owned and controlled by all the people of New Haven.

N.Y. Town Turns on to Public Power

by Clarence Gratto
Fair Haven Short Circuited Consumers

Last September I spent a few days in Massena, New York while vacationing in upper New York State. Massena is a small town of about 14,000 people tucked in between the Adrirondack Mountains and the St. Lawrence River. Nature is hard there. The land is rough and rocky and the winters are long and cold. January temperatures are -50 degrees and snow flurries are common in May. The old timers tell about the year that the temperature didn't go above -0- for the whole month of January.

Alcoa and Reynolds Aluminum have processing plants in Massena, and General Motors has an engine block factory there too. Even so, the whole northern part of the state has a chronically depressed economy. Unemployment rates of 7% have been the rule ever since they started keeping track. The people in Massena learned a long time ago to be cautious about change. But last May, the people in Massena decided to make a very big change: they voted overwhelmingly in favor of a publicly owned electric power company.

Rates Too Expensive

For as long as anyone can remember Niagra Mohawk Power Company had supplied the area with electric power. "She was a good neighbor all those years," Max Ryan told me, "but she got too damn expensive and we had to find something else." Electric rates in Massena were lower than UI's even before the people voted out Niagra Mohawk. There are hydro-electric plants on the Niagra River near Niagra Falls and on the St. Lawrence River near Massena. But another big factor in lower light bills is that Niagra Mohawk- an investor owned company-buys most of its power from the publicaly owned Power Authority of the State of New York. But even so, the residents of Plattsburg, New York about 90 miles from Massena, were paying only ½ as much for the same electricity. Why? Because Plattsburg switched to public power in 1941.

I went to Massena because I wanted to learn from the people who live there why they decided to go for public power. I found out that, like New Haven, some people had been talking about it for a long time. When Vinnie Sirabella ran for mayor in 1972, he supported public power in New Haven. And the idea of public power had been talked about at the Massena Town and Village board meetings from time to time since about 1968. Then last year the United Auto Workers local presented the Massena mayor with a petition signed by over 800 people, asking for a feasibility study on publicly owned power for Massena.

While the rest of the country sat around and complained about skyrocketing utility rates, the elected officials in Massena did something. In December 1973, the Village and Town of Massena jointly approved a feasibility study and voted $26,000 so that it could be done done by outside experts. "We figured we'd get that back in savings in no time" a local elected official told me, "and we knew we would need good, hard, and reliable statistics if we were going to expect people to vote for public power."

Study Made Public

In March, the professional feasibility study was made public. It said that the cost of electricity for Massena could be expected to go down 13% immediately after public takeover, and another 5% within a few years. This would be a savings of $38.41 for the average Massena residential user. Not bad when you figure the regular Niagra Mohawk customers would be socked with a 16% rate increase.

Company Fought Back

Mayor White set May 30 as the election day, and the action got thick and heavy. Niagra Mohawk, like UI , makes good profits, and they want to stay in the power business. The company sent in 45 public relations people, headed by one of their top managers. The whole community was canvassed door to door, and some people were visited two or three times, during the two months before the election. NiagraMohawk flunkies packed the public meetings that the local officials had called to talk about the benefits of a publicly owned power system. Each issue of the local paper, the MASSENA OBSERVER was filled with full page ads paid for by Niagra Mohawk(with profits they made off their customers) that praised the company and warned of certain doom if the Town and Village tried to run a power company. Rumors of layoffs and local economic failures were spread around town.

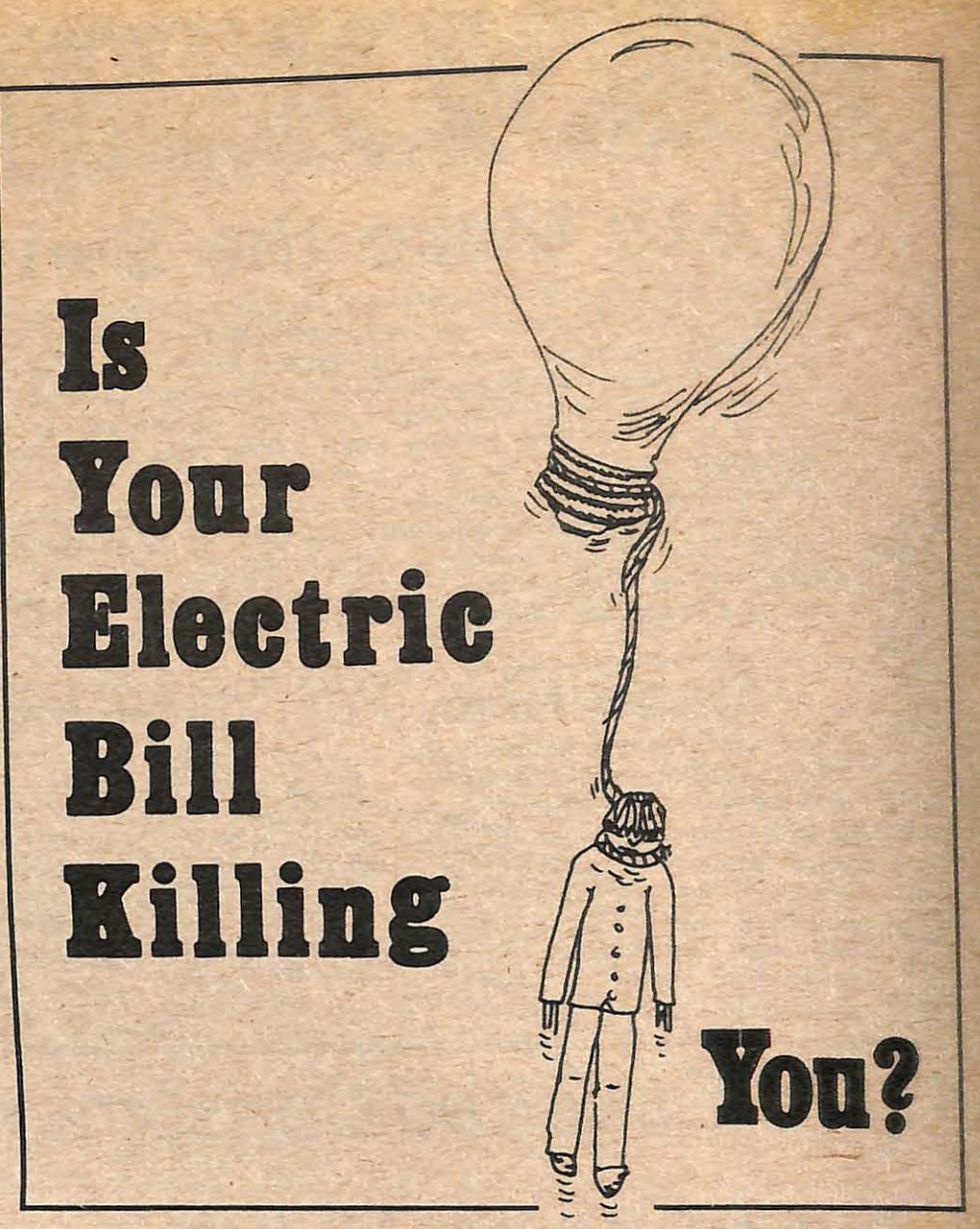
Using just volunteers and the little bit of money they could raise, the supporters of public power countered the high pressure scare campaign that was being bank-rolled by the company with hard facts. A non-partisan Citizens Advisory Committee was appointed by the Mayor to reveiw the professional feasibility study and the charges made by the company. The Committee unanimously endorsed the take over and even the most skeptical of the members became effective spokespersons for public ownership. Their report said, in part, that "...the people of Massena have one of those rare opportunities where the cost of living can be reduced by substantial savings in their electric bills." They concluded that Massena could find well qualified people to run the publicly owned company and that customer service would be as good if not better than Niagra Mohawk.

The People Won.

Finally election day came, and the turnout was heavy. When the last vote was counted, the people had chosen public power by a two to one margin! "The issue was plain and simple," said John Dumas, secretary of the Citizens Advisory Committee, "under a municipal system, power can be cheaper."

I talked to the Town Supervisor, Charles Smith, while he waited on customers in his meat market, a few blocks from the Town Hall. He told me how the local officials were looking forward to the take over. "I guess everybody understands now that their property taxes won't go up one nickle because we own the company. They see that we will be taking in money when people pay their bills. Then we'll use some of this money to pay off the bonds we'll have to sell to pay for the company. I'm pretty sure we'll be able to lower the taxes a little this year. You see, one of our biggest electric customers are the Town and Village. We've been paying out a lot of tax money for electricity for street lights, school lights, the (town operated) hospital, and other public buildings." He thought that the amount the Town would save on light bills was equal to the whole budget of the Town library. Then he told me how the local merchants were looking forward to the new lower electric and tax rates. "It will cost them less to run their stores. If they lower their prices, they think that will draw more customers from the other towns around here. That will mean more business for them and more jobs for people in Massena. Our low electric and tax rates may even attract some more industry up here too. Lower light bills, lower taxes, lower prices in the stores, more jobs—everybodygains from public power."

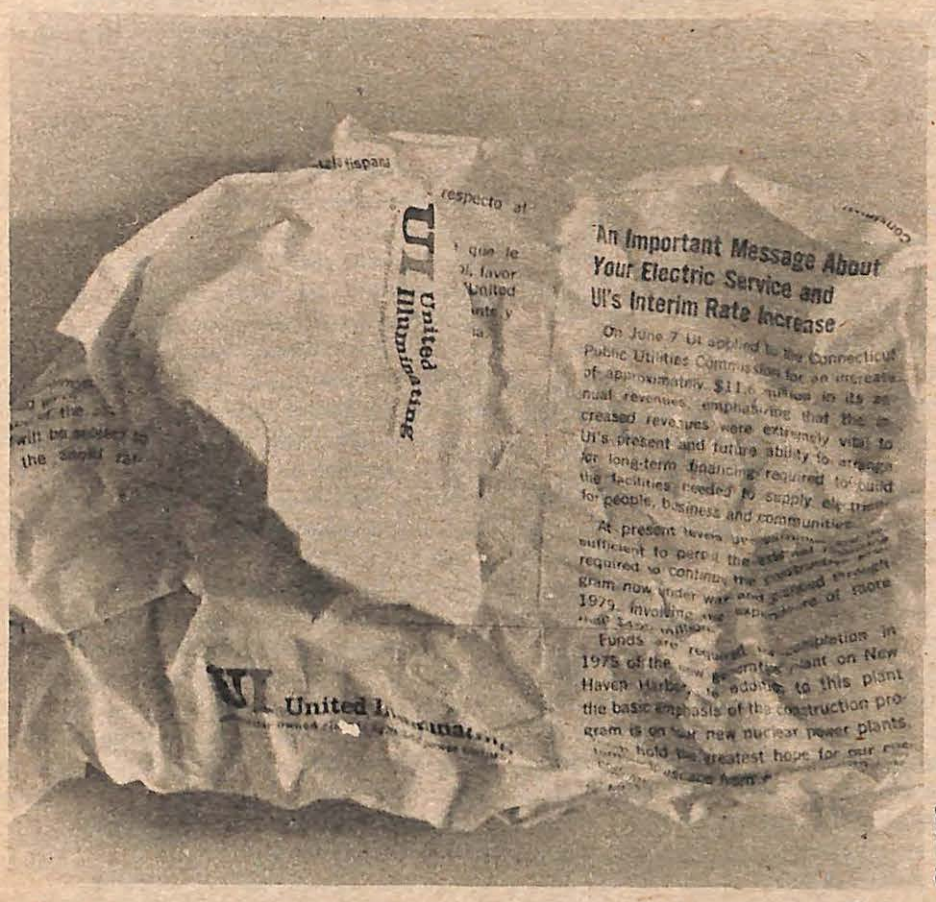
I showed him my electric bill, and he looked at it with alarm. Then I told him about how the city of New Haven is having trouble balancing its budget, that taxes are too high, that industries and jobs are leaving New Haven, and how new companies aren't moving here. He told me I'd better hurry back to New Haven and tell all the folks down here about public power.



U.I., Here's Watt's Coming

Dear Boss,
I am sorry to have to write this.
But we the people are tired of having to pay for your high fuel adjustment cost.
So you and your croonies better get lost.
Because: We the public are going to be the boss.

Why Lie UI?



Clarence

Reaction to the propaganda , included in every bill, is simple. No one believes it;as demonstrated by this crumpled message. The BIG LIE will no longer work.

The Way to Buy U.I.

For the past 72 years it has been possible under Connecticut law for a city or town to purchase and operate its own electrical system. The procedure, by which a city can acquire such ownership, is very simple.

In New Haven's case, the Board of Aldermen would pass, by a 2/3 vote, a resolution calling for the city to buy U.I. The resolution is then approved by the mayor in each of two consecutive municipal years.

After approval by the mayor, the measure is placed on the ballot during the next regular municipal election. Following approval by the voters, the city buys only the part of U.I. it needs to provide ample and efficient low-cost electricity to its citizens.

The city can pay for the U.I. property it buys by selling revenue bonds. These bonds are paid off entirely from the future sale of electricity. Thus, buying U.I. would not add to the taxpayers' burden.

After city takeover, the Board of Aldermen could set down regulations governing how the electric system should be run. The Mayor would also appoint a commission to run the utility. The public could make its voice heard by speaking to the aldermen--or by not voting for them at election time.

Aldermen to Study UI Takeover

RESOLUTION RE FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE MUNICIPALIZATION OF THE UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on the Board of Aldermen to explore every opportunity for improving the public welfare in New Haven,

WHEREAS, the residents of New Haven, and the City's institutions, both public and private, have experienced the burden of mounting electrical costs,

WHEREAS, the possibility exists for substantial savings to power consumers thru municipalization of electric utilities,

WHEREAS, over 2000 municipalitiesin the United States currently own power producing systems,

WHEREAS, the latest statistics by the Federal Power Commission show that local public power systems provide consumers with low cost electricity,

WHEREAS, Chapter 101 of the General Statutes of Connecticut gives municipalities the authority to establish publicly run power plants,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Aldermanic Committee on Municipal Services or such other committee designated by the President of the Board of Aldermen conduct a feasibility study regarding the possibility of acquiring the United Illuminating Company, or aspects of its operation, by the City of New Haven.

Co-sponsors

Pasquale Fasulo
Alderman 10th Ward

James O. Jones
Alderman 27th Ward

Michael Natalino
Alderman 14th Ward

Sylvester Fusco
Alderman 9th Ward

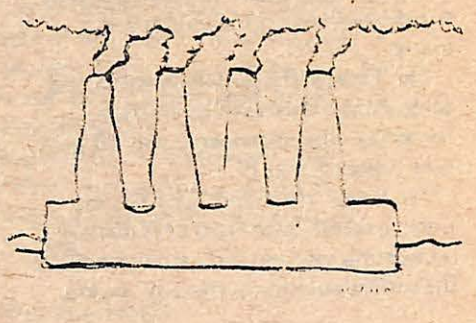
Respectfully submitted,

David Warren
Alderman 2nd Ward

Bye Bye, U.I.!

Bye Bye U.I.
(sung to the tune of "Bye Bye Blackbird")

Pack up all your things and go,
Charging high, talking low,
Bye bye U.I.
Public power is for me
A New Haven owned utility
Bye bye U.I.
You out there must know and understand it
Please help us oust this private, licensed bandit
So, Mayor Guida, know our rights,
Fight our fights, light our lights,
U.I. ..... Bye bye



Can New Haven Afford U.I.?

by Gary Benenson

Now that electric power rates are soaring out of sight, many people are taking a serious look at how the United Illuminating Company operates. Like most electric companies, UI is a very profitable business. A UI stockholder currently earns 13% a year return on the price of their stock. If the sale of electricity is profitable for investors, it could just as well benefit the public. Over 2,000 American towns and cities run their own electric systems but unlike UI they distribute the benefits to everyone. Jacksonville, Florida, for example, recently **lowered** its property tax rate—in part by using revenues from its electric power authority.

Whatever accomplishments may be credited to private enterprise, cheap electricity is not one of them. Federal government statistics show that the municipally owned power systems produce electricity more efficiently and sell it much cheaper than the private power companies(see Table 1). Unfortunately, there is very little reason for private utilities to lower their costs. There is no competition to worry about, and state utility commissions are not usually more than generous in granting rate increases. Intentionally or not, most states actually reward the utilities for wasting money. They do so by automatically turning over to the consumers whatever bills the utility company presents. Under these circumstances what businessman would try to cut cost?

Public Power is Cheaper

Looking specifically at UI, Table 1 compares their costs of supplying 1000 Kilowatt-hours of electricity to those of the average public power system. The figures on public power are those collected by the Federal Power Commission from the 564 largest municipal systems. The UI statistics were supplied by UI to the Public Utilities Commission in their application for a rate increase June 1974. Table 1 shows unmistakably that the average public system spent less than UI **on every single item which goes into the electricity bill.** The average public power system sells power for a little over half of what UI charges. There are no two ways about it—public power is cheaper. A few months ago, Johnny Cash and other celebrities were on T.V. urging Americans "Don't Be Fuelish." They should have addressed their message to UI. In it's single-minded pursuit of profits, UI has wasted and continues to waste more energy in a day than most of us will probally waste in a lifetime. The Fuel Cost Adjustment is a giant slush fund which will,as Ella Grasso has pointed out, actually reimburse UI for oil they never burnor will ever burn. The most expensive this fuel, the more UI makes. Thus it is in their interest to burn the most expensive fuel available. Consequently, UI has shown no interest at all in cheaper fuels such as garbage and sewage. Even the new Harbor plant, now under construction, is designed for expensive, inefficient fuels.

What is the public's loss is UI's gain. The UI stockholders hire their management for one purpose only—to raise profits. Either they do so or look for another job. So it's no surprise to find the UI brass ready to sacrifice almost anything for the sake of profits.

Setting the Stage for a Crisis

Whether we like it or not, UI is quietly setting energy policies that will have powerful consequences for all of us. Ten years ago, the U.S. Congress proposed to build a huge new hydro-electric project on the St. John River in Maine, known as the Dickey Lincoln School project. It would have generated electricity directly from the water power of the river—at a tremendous saving of oil and coal. Had it been built, Dickey-Lincoln would have been the cheapest source of stand-by power in New England. But UI and the other private power companies saw Dickey-Lincoln as a threat. By selling cheap power to the publicly owned utilities, the Federal Government would also force the private companies to lower their prices. UI and the other private companies therefore used their influence in Congress to secure the defeat of Dickey-Lincoln. This is one major reason why New England remains condemned to rely almost entirely on oil for its energy supply. Now that there is an oil shortage, we are all paying dearly for UI for UI's self-interested energy policy.

Who Should Decide?

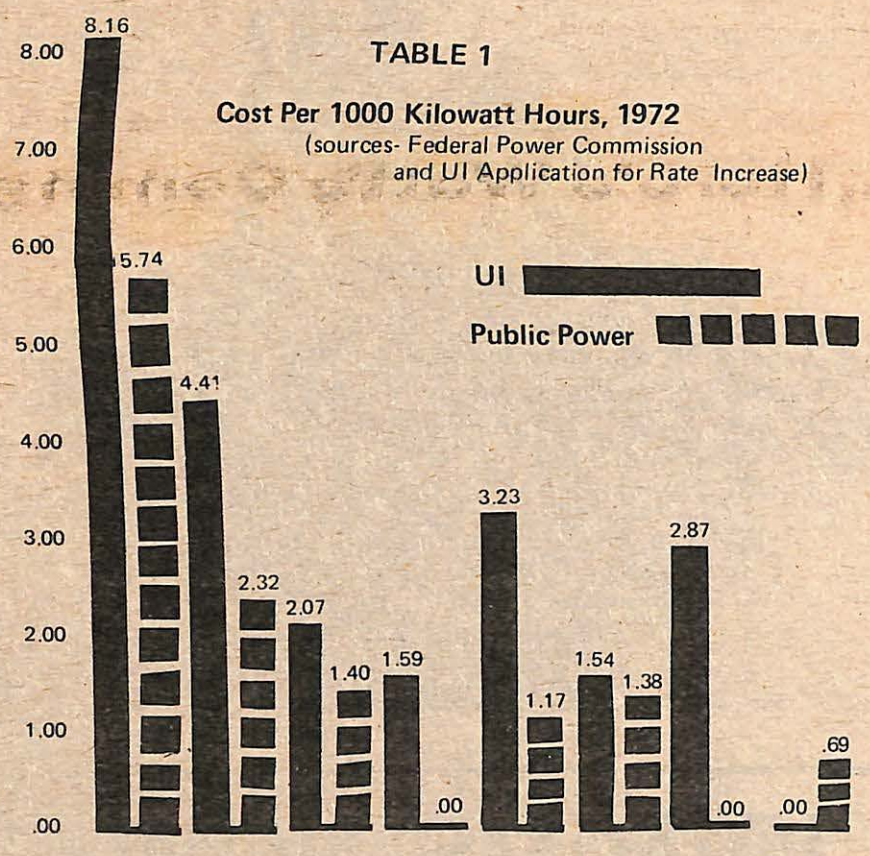
Little as we can afford our electric bills, we can even less afford to let UI set energy policy. There is another way. The public power authority of Eugene, Ore., recently faced the decision of whether or not to build a nuclear plant. Having no stockholders to worry about, the town put the issue to the voters and let *them* decide. The nuclear plant was defeated. One can agree or disagree with the decision, but at least it was made clear in the voting booth, not in the board room. This sort of decision is too serious and too far-reaching to be left to the whim of profit interest. "Business as usual" on the part of UI could easily lead all of us down the road of environmental disaster.

The choice is ours. We can continue to leave ourselves at the mer[illegible] of men whose job is to make profit[illegible] for the stockholders who employ them. Or we can go into the electric pow[illegible] business ourselves—as a community [illegible]d hire managers who will be respo[illegible]ble to the consumers.

In modern society, electri[illegible]ty is just as necessary to have as fire protection or streets. Yet no one would think of handing either of those services over to a profit-making enterprise. For cheaper more responsible electric service—it's time to switch to public power.

TABLE 1

Cost Per 1000 Kilowatt Hours, 1972
(sources- Federal Power Commission and UI Application for Rate Increase)



Public Power saves money. The above graph shows how UI spends more then Public Power in the following categories(in order): Power Production, Operation and Maintenance, Depreciation, Federal Taxes, Other Taxes, Interest, and Profit. In the final category , money left for Improvement, Public Power leads UI.

MODERN TIMES New Haven, Ct.

brass tacks

Conn. Consumers Give Lie to U.I. Rate Pleas

by Mike F. Holodnak
Modern Times Staff

The Connecticut Consumers Group(CCG), an organization of over 100,000 members and headed by Mike Aulenti and Albert Cioffari, is now seriously challenging the irresponsible, arrogant and dictatorial powers of the United Illuminating Co.

Since the 1930's the privately owned utilities like the United Illuminating Co., have been basking in a stockholders paradise. Being monopolies they were subject to regulations in return for a guaranteed rate of profit.

The trouble with these regulations was that they were obviously written only by the people of the private utilities for the benefit of the private utilities, without regard for what was best for the public and the country as a whole.

The Federal Power Commission and State Public Utilities Commission currently allow between 7 and 10 percent "rate of return".

Yet these "regulated" utilities routinely exceed these rates of return by reinvesting interest and earnings outside the utility operation, thereby producing an unregulated secondary income for their stockholders.

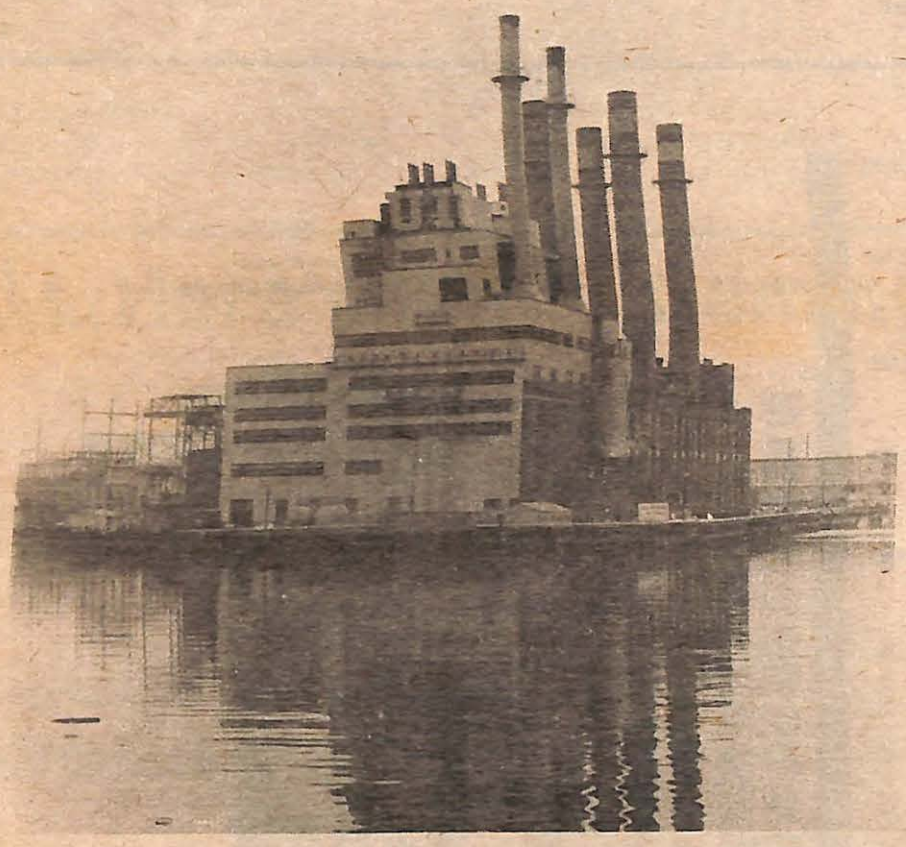
Hidden investments are only a part of the regulated monopoly deceptions. "Rate of return" to utilities means total return on the company's entire investment, both debt and equity.

Encourages Waste

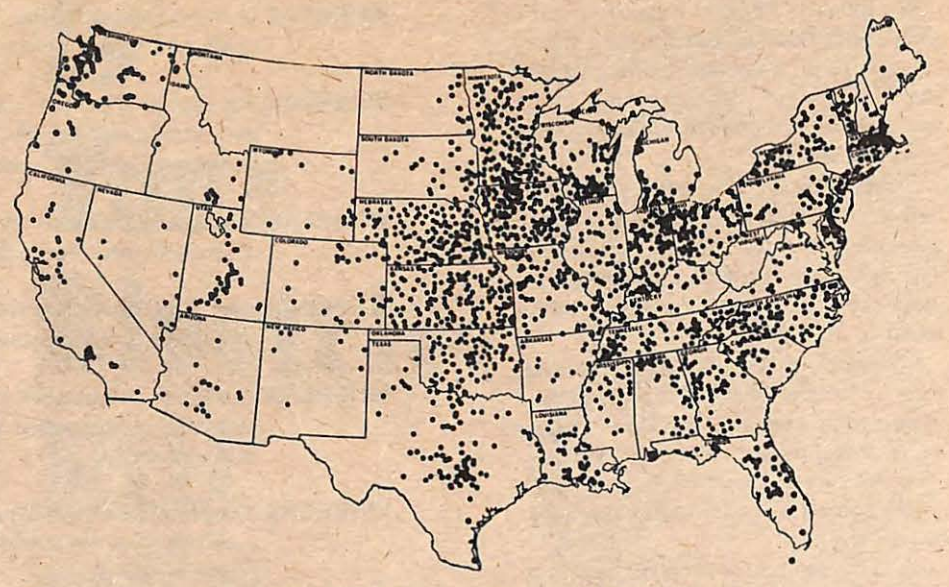
As a result, their rate of return , which is guaranteed, increases as their investments increase. This set-up encourages private utilities to build more facilities than are needed, forcing them to promote the use of unnecessary appliances and to give discounts to the biggest electricity users.

Therefore, waste has become our way of life and pollution and rapid depletion of our natural resources has become our natural heritage. All because the private profiteers have decreed that this is the way it should be.

When the oil companies created the phony "oil crisis" to raise prices UI paid without batting an eye, because the added cost could be dumped onto the consumers. Also, while the oil co's and UI were racking in their profits, they said "the arabs did it.".



Clarence



Dots indicate location of publicly owned electric systems in the continental United States.

In addition to the direct fuel cost adjustment (FCA), there is also the indirect FCA passed onto us by every business and institution in the state. The City of Milford and its Board of Education, for example, are paying $15,000/mo. merely for the FCA to UI which threatens to wipe out the city's small $116,000 contingency surplus in the budget.

UI Has Its Way

In an effort to conserve fuel and to reduce the size of their electric bills, many conscientious people have individually decided to cut down on their use of electricity. Yet they are finding that the UI is wiping out all their efforts by appealing to their stooges in the PUC for another rate hike in order to maintain its profit margin.

In short, the UI has its 250,000 captive customers coming and going.

Consumers Fight Back

In an attempt to block the utility, the CCG has a law suit pending in court challenging the legality of the Fuel Adjustmen. clause (FAC)and the UI's shutoff powers. It also has four bills pending in the legislature revoloving around the FAC, declining block structure and subpoena powers for the consumers advocate, David Silverstone.

In July, Mike Aulenti and Al Cioffari went to Washington where they were instrumental in getting the fuel Emergency Act to equalize the gross disparity in oil prices for the New England areas.

UI, however, has thus far not taken advantage of these lower oil prices because it would have to open its books to scrutiny

The CCG is also supporting the Fair Haven Short-Circuited Consumers' resolution calling for a feasibility study on the municipalization of the UI.

There are 2,800 public power systems in America, of which 1,775 are municipally owned.

Statistics, compiled over the past century, show that public power is consistently cheaper and more efficient. than private power,

Public systems give their customers cheaper rates by the simple fact that they don't spend on advertising, lobbying, political donations, accounting and collection, executive salaries, and internal bureaucracy, not to mention dividend payments which alone account for a saving of 39 %.

Public ownership of the utilities by itself is not a cure-all. There will still be many other problems, like the oil and food monopolies, facing consumers. But, by getting together, the American people will have a voice in what is happening, and that in itself is at least a step in the right direction.

More People for Public Power

JOIN US NOW

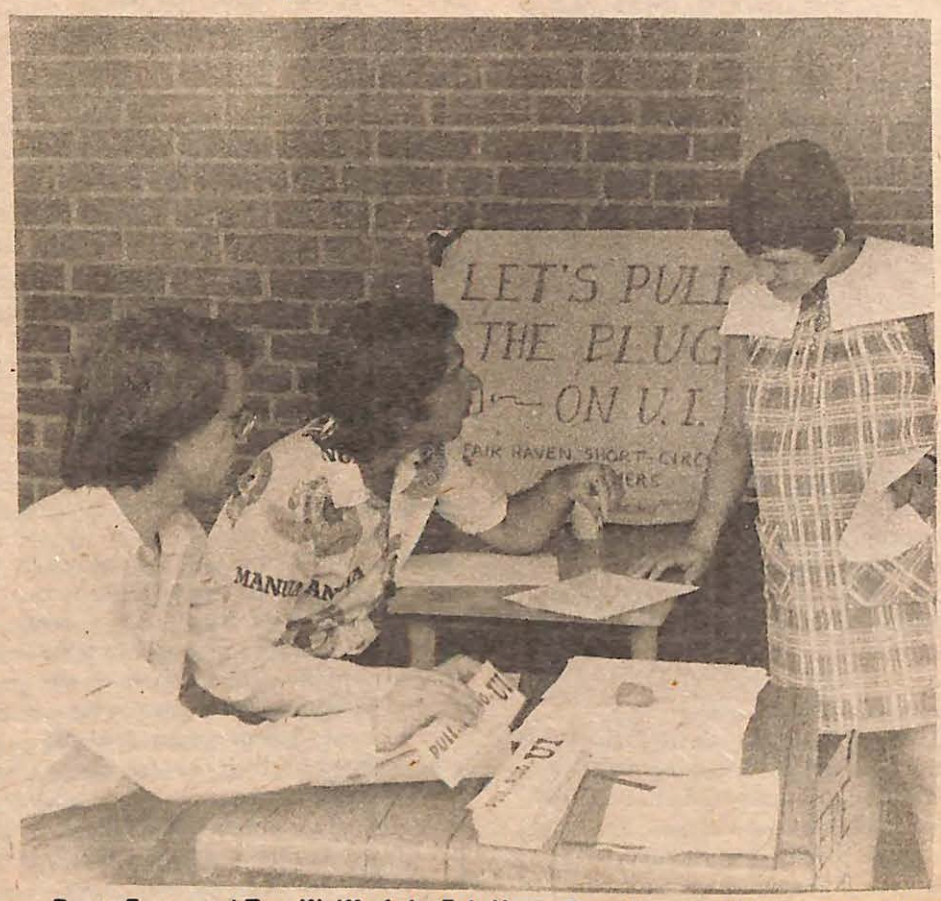
☐ I'm sold on public power! Here's my $1.00 memebrship contribution.

☐ Tell me more. Please add me to your mailing list.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____



Clarence

Rusty Foster and Tom Wolff of the Fair Haven Short Circuited Consumers explain the procedure for a public takeover of the UI to an interested consumer. The conversation took place in front of the now closed A&P on Grand Ave.

C.L.U.W.: Sisters Let's Organize

New Haven Area Coalition of Labor Union Women Planning Committee.

Joyce Miller of New York, International Vice-president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women(CLUW) speaking at the first New Haven CLUW meeting, said:

Twice as many women work now than did in 1920. In 1920 women were 20% of the labor force and now they are almost 40%. But, only 4.3 million women are in unions;31 million women workers are not organized. Even though there are large numbers or women in many unions, women are only 4.7% of all union leadership.

Race and sex, she argued are clearly factors in low earnings. But most women cannot afford low earnings;they are working because they have to. Half of all women workers are single, widdowed, divorced or married to a man earning less than $7,000.

Nick Heyer

The organizing group for the Coalition of Labor Union Women(CLUW) meets at the Labor Temple.

Working Mothers

4.8 million women who work are mothers of children under 6 years old. But where are the Daycare centers, Joyce Miller asked? She pointed out that in World WarII when womens' labor was given high priority, daycare was provided. Moreover, she added, no jobs were considered 'non-traditional' for women then.

One of the purposes of CLUW is to destroy old myths about women workers, Sister Miller said. She stressed that the four goals of CLUW, organizing women, affirmative action,legislation and encouraging women to participate in their unions are allimportant for working women and for the labor movement as a whole.

Justin(Bud)Manning, Inrenational Representative of the Office and Professional Workers, representing the New Haven Central Labor Council, said that a strong labor movenment could only be built if both men and women were active. He deplored the fact that his own union which is 88% women had so few women in national leadership. He hoped CLUW could help change this. The Central Labor Council he said, would give CLUW all the support it could.

Keep United

Claire Pluff, President of the Office and Professional Workers, Local 329, appealed to the labor movement to stick together: "So often the labor movement is divided against itself. A united labor movement could help working people, divided, we will be working for peon wages. CLUW might help turn things around."

Questions followed the speeches. Rose Brunswick, retired from the Hotel and Restaurant Union said CLUW followed a long history of women's labor organzations. She had been a member of the National Women's Trade Union League, an organization of women unionists and supporters outside the labor movement, which fought hard for protective legislation and other interests of working women between 1903 and 1946. She said she was pleased to see CLUW carry on the work this organization started. Other speakers made suggestions about what CLUW might do and how it might reach more union women.

Sharing Experiences

Refreshments followed and everyone had a chance to have some good food and meet each other. This part of the meeting revealed exactly the purposes of CLUW. Women exchanged exper-ences and common problems. Some talked about being on negotiating committees; others talked about strikes they had been involved in. Many were talking about the problems of getting more women active in their unions.

The interest of the women who came the impressive direction of the meeting by Mary Macey, Vice-president of the Typoghaphers Union, Local 47, and the strength of Ms. Pluff's speech suggest that women unionists are prepared to be active and take a lead in New Haven's labor movement.

The planning committee who had worked for 4 months to organize the meeting felt pleased with the support and interest.

Are You Interested?

Anyone who wants more information about CLUW should call Debby Anderson at 397-1215 or Cathy Foley at 624-2975.

The next meeting of the New Haven Chapter will be on January 26 at 4 pm at the Labor Temple at 45 Water St. The meeting will be a discussion on "Why aren't women more active in their unions?" Saul Nessleroth from the Labor Education Center at the University of Connecticut at Storrs, will lead the discussion on this topic and talk about the types of skills that might help women be more confident in their unions. All women union members are welcome.

school notes

Schools Outlook Dim

by Ruth Hein
Modern Times Staff

As the new year opens, it is clear that 1975 will be a difficult time, *with little control of inflation* and a steady rise in unemployment. Government budgets will have to be spread thin to cover the areas of need.

Schools and education inevitably reflect the general situation. Whereas in times of plenty there is enthusiasm for social experimentation, innovation, and taking gallant risks, the response to hard times is often retrenchment, caution, and conservatism.

Perhaps because of this atmosphere, the New Haven Public Schools seem very quiet at present. Except for separate incidents, no one is rocking the boat. Increasingly the Superindentent has stressed "old fashioned" discipline and has emphasized academics.

Schedules Less Flexable

The schools are juggling schedules to provide the students with more minutes of reading, math, and social studies each week. To find this additional time, the schools must work to tighten schedules, leaving less elasticity for surprise lessons stimulated by unexpected events.

Such efforts have always been backed by some parents, who believe that the way to the good life lies through thorough traditional education. As affluence decreases, we can expect support fot this attitude to deepen and spread.

Where enrichment programs still exist, they are usually generated by federal grants aimed at integrating the school system. But the local integration effort often goes only far enough to assure continuation of federal funding for special programs in the "better "schools, which can be accomplished with a minimum of busing.

Lack of Commitment

When black children are sent to previously all-white schools, and when black teachers are hired, the move seems to be dictated by cynical opportunism rather than honest belief. Maybe it's better than nothing but surely somewhere the real motivation colors the outcome?

In any case, a real commitment to integration requires a good deal,of money—*not only for buses, but also for special programs, teachers, and aides.* A tight economic situation does not therefore encourage serious efforts in this direction.

Moreover, as more families find their livelihood threatened, they begin to fear that "upstart" ethnic groups will threaten their jobs, and resistance to integration grows in the community. If the comunity itself does not press for inclusion of minority groups in advantaged education, the school administration will certainly not go the expense of bringing it about.

Community Groups Fade

The various community groups, which did did so much during the 1960's to identify needs and devise instruments to meet them, have quietly disbanded. They fell victim to pervading apathy—itself a response to bureaucratic insensitivity—and to the simple fact that when people have to worry about how to put food on the table and pay the rent, they don't have much energy left to prod the adimistration.

The PTA, ofcourse, remains, with chapters in a large proportion of the city's schools. The PTA's influence on the school administration probably exceeds that of any other citizen organization, but by its own rules, the PTA is more capable of supplementing than initiating change.

School Councils

School councils, while still recognized on paper, are active in very few schools. Even where they are present, they have do difficulty in exercising their proper function, which is to advise the principal and ensure his listening to the community's feelings. Councils cannot function effectively until their legitimation allows for a citywide organization of councils, so that can act in concert.

As **Bob Greenlee** has pointed out in the **REGISTER**, the only way community groups today can influence school actions is to "go public" and get their veiws into the papers. When these maneuvers succeed in the individual case, ameliorating one or another deplorable situation, they also serve to stress the city's splintering into self-contained interest groups, without any overall agency to direct parent power into universally productive channels.

New Haven '75-Audubon St.

Nick Heyer

Audubon St. is changing. It has become a center for arts in New Haven as witnessed by the new Arts Council of Greater New Haven's restoration of an old factory(above) into an art gallery among other services. At the other end, however, is new housing for the elderly(below).

Nick Heyer

on the job

Planning Programs to Improve Children's Lives

by Renée Poirier and Alfredo Logiudice

I work at the Dixwell Community House(Q-House.) My title is Education Component Supervisor, but I really do a bit of everything.

Right now I am working to set up programs to deal with educational deprivation in the Dixwell area. The focus of the program is to develop motivation and confidence levels for children who suffer from negative self-concepts. This negativity is the major cause of their learning disability.

To get the program off the ground I have to find tutors willing to work in a remedial program, and set up meetings with them and talk about the project. On January 7th we will hold the first in a series of workshops with the volunteers to discuss the relationship between tutor and child.

Nick Heyer

Alfredo Logiudice (right) with a cooking club. The group prepared and served a Christmas Dinner at the Q-House.

Many Types of Work

I also have to write a proposal and budget for this program and submit it to the directors of the Q House. The proposal gets reveiwed, but if there is a problem and all the money is not available through the Q House, then I have to investigate other sources of funding and submit proposals to them.

I have no set routine in my job. Each day I figure out what I have to do for the projects that I am working on. For instance, in the program to deal with education deprivation, I am developing a curriculum guide for tutoring materials to give to the voluteers. I have to meet with the parents of the children who will be in the sessions, and try to get them involved in at least a marginal way. I also spend some of my time speaking to the regular teachers of these children and letting them know whatwe are planning.

Working with Intercultural Groups.

Besides this major project, I have other smaller ones. Twice a week I teach Spanish as a second language to an intercultural group of small children. I've also been working with a hyperactive child who is on a modified school day, spending time with him and helping to explain to his parents, who don't speak english, what sort of situation their child is in.

Some evenings I act as an overseer at dances in the Q House. Basically I do what needs to be done. Sometimes that means sitting in on someone in charge, but as a source of feedback or help, if for instance, they need volunteers for a project thay are planning.

Raising Self-Expectations

Sometimes people come to me for advice, just to talk, or for help. One example was the student who came to me because she wanted to go to college, but didn't know how to go about it. I helped her find out what was available, where, and what the requirements were. One of the main things that I like to do and put myself in the position of doing, is helping people increase their expectations of themselves.

What I like best about my job is being given the opportunity to work on a ground level, with Community people and their problems. I like working with people on a one to one basis, and my job lets me apply my personal life, feelings and committments to others.

Any one interested in volunteering for any project at the Q House, and specifically for the tutoring program, should call: 772-2665 between 9 and 5.

Teacher Pact Talks Start

continued from page 1

for a new contract before the Board of Education submits its budget to the Board of Finance (late February). Negotiating sessions have been set for December 19, January 2, January 8, January 14, January 23, and January 30.

If the Board of Education submits a proposed budget for next year before completing negotiations it would mean that they would have unilaterally determined wages and benefits for teachers for the next school year. In that case, the only other way the Board of Education might get additional funds would be through the wages saved during a strike. Such tactics are usually considered "unfair labor practices" in private industry.

Hard Bargaining Ahead

The Board of Education could also present a "more work-less pay" proposal as they did the last time in hopes of squeezing another zero percent increase year out of New Haven teachers. During the last strike a Superior Court Judge came close to ruling that tactic a violation of the state's collective bargaining law for teachers.

The New Haven Federation of Teachers has a 13-member negotiating committee headed by President Frank Carrano. The committee includes six high school teachers, two middle school teachers and five elementary school teachers.

The Board of Education has delegated their newest member, David Echter, to be in charge of negotiations. However, the Board's negotiating committee at the present time, includes *no* members of the Board of Education. Administrators Redmond, Cassella, Altieri and Borman currently represent the Board at the bargaining table. Neither appointed Board of Education members nor elected city officials take part in negotiations unless forced to do so by the public or the courts.

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MODERN TIMES
441 Chapel St., New Haven
562-2510

Hyman Kaplan 1890-1974

Hyman Kaplan, one of New Haven's oldest radicals, died on December 16, 1974, as a result of injuries sustained after being hit the day before by a car in front of the Post Office on Church Street. His wife, Elizabeth, was also injured and is now recovering.

Kaplan, an immigrant Jewish worker, became one of the principle organizers of the famous textile workers' strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 1912 which the IWW led. He was black-listed for many years by the textile bosses. In 1920 he was confined by the federal government in Deer Island, Massachusetts, a victim of the Red Scare.. During the depression years in New Haven, he was the local leader of the Unemployed Council which fought for jobs and relief for jobless workers. In the 1950's the United States government sought to deprive him of his citizenship in a long drawn out case which he eventually won. In more recent years, Kaplan participated in some of the local anti-Vietnam War activities. He was 84 at his death.